

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
APRIL 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Chair Michelle Swansborough at 6:00 p.m. on April 18, 2023 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Michelle Swansborough, Chair
Brandon Crane, Vice Chair (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)
Joel Bertolino
Mariah Holdbrook
Sam Langager (via Zoom)

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Deborah Hill, John Holdbrook, Sarah Shoopman, Sanford Langager, Nick Dobbel, Jackie Ronning, Jen Larson, Steve Keebler, Alan Schuyler, Jackie Douglas, Kale Douglas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 regular meeting and March 30, 2023 special meeting as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

WARRANTS

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve warrants 49126-49188 as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Holdbrook stated he has some questions with the election process and the resignation of a board member. He stated his question is why the seat of a board member who is resigning wasn't included on the ballot for election.

Mr. Ator presented the election timelines calendar provided by the Office of Public Instruction and explained that the resignation of a trustee has to be approved by the board at a properly noticed meeting and there wasn't sufficient time to do that and meet the deadline for submitting the trustee resolution calling for the election. He added when the board resignation is accepted by the board, the process for appointing a replacement will begin.

Mr. Holdbrook stated since three people have applied for the two trustee positions and one other will be coming open, whoever doesn't prevail in the election should be the one appointed.

Mr. Ator stated it is his understanding that is the board's intention.

Sanford Langager stated May 4 is the National Day of Prayer and he would like to see the board host an event at the school and he would also like to be involved.

Michelle Swansborough stated she would volunteer for this event.

Jackie Douglas asked for more information on the mill levy, specifically what it will be used for and will it be assessed each year.

Mr. Ator stated the levy is to help cover general operating expenses and if passed, becomes part of the over base budget that is assessed each year.

(Brandon Crane arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Sarah Shoopman reported the following for activities:

1. Junior high boys' basketball is over.
2. For the 23-24 sports year, the junior high boys' basketball season will be in the fall and the girls will be in the spring.
3. High school track has started with 22 participating and junior high with 24 participating.
4. BPA had a bake sale and Easter Egg hunt and is getting ready for bingo/carnival.
5. FFA is having a petting zoo on May 10.
6. Activities Banquet will be May 16.

LITERACY REPORT

Jackie Ronning reported we are wrapping up assessments and hopefully will be done by the first week of May. She added work is also underway on a final report for the grant which can serve as a guide book for new literacy coaches for the last year of the grant.

STAFFING

RESIGNATIONS – Mr. Ator stated he received a letter of resignation from Raina Wedeward and asked that the board accept it.

Motion as made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Raina Wedeward and thank her for her service to the district. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

HIRING – Mr. Ator reported there were three applicants for the custodial position and two of those showed up to interview. He stated it is his recommendation to hire Tanya Wright for the position at forty hours per week at \$12.50 per hour for the remainder of the fiscal year on a probationary basis.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve hiring Tanya Wright for the custodial position at \$12.50 per hour/40 hours per week until the end of the fiscal year on a probationary basis. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

SUMMER SCHOOL -- Mr. Ator stated it is his recommendation to hire Lisa Young and Denyse Vanek as summer school teachers.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to hire Lisa Young and Denyse Vanek to teach summer school. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

SUMMER GROUNDS MAINTENANCE -- Mr. Ator recommended hiring Theresa Kosel for summer grounds maintenance for 25 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to hire Theresa Kosel for summer grounds maintenance for 25 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none. Abstained – Bertolino (conflict of interest)).

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION CONTRACT FOR THE USE OF EXPRESS VOTES – Mr. Ator recommended approval of the contract with Carbon County for use of the Express Votes machine for the May 2, 2023 trustee and mill levy election.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Carbon County for use of the Express Votes machine for the May 2, 2023 trustee and mill levy election. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

PRESENTATION FROM COUNTY HEALTH -- Hailey DeMarois of the Carbon County Health Department stated several schools have requested that Epipens for allergic reactions and Narcan, a medicine to reverse overdosing, be made available to schools to be kept in a secure location.

Ms. DeMarois stated the maker of the Epipen gives two free kits to schools with the proper paperwork.

Mr. Ator stated his concern with sustainability.

Ms. DeMarois stated she would be glad to show him the pathway to run the program. She added an attorney for the county has reviewed the paperwork for the project and has approved it.

Mariah Holdbrook stated we know there are concerns with overdoses now and there are remedies so we should use them.

Mr. Ator asked the board if this program is something we should pursue and the board indicated we should.

BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC GRANT – Mr. Ator stated the Beartooth Electric Grant for the solar project has been submitted and he would like a motion of support from the board.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to state the board's support for the Beartooth Electric grant. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

TITLE IV GRANT – Mr. Ator stated he wrote a proposal for a Title IV grant which is federal money set aside in Title IV to support communities after the pandemic. He stated the grant would provide funding for safety training, a school counselor type role, professional development related to trauma informed instruction, and programming to support school culture improvement. He asked for a motion of support for this grant proposal.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to state the board’s support for the Title IV grant proposal. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

INSURANCE RENEWAL WITH JPT – Mr. Ator stated we received the proposal for health insurance through the Joint Powers Trust with a 6% increase for next year. He added this is a very good proposal and asked for board approval.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the bid from JPT for health insurance coverage for next year with a 6% increase. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

SPRING ORDERS – Mr. Ator stated he provided some information in the packet of orders he is considering for year-end money but won’t have a recommendation until we see what happens with the levy and grant proposals. He stated he also included a spreadsheet on the use of ESSER funds.

AFFILIATION RENEWALS – Mr. Ator stated dues for affiliations the district participates in are due on July 1 and asked for discretion to pay those with a less than 10% increase. He added these are for such groups as MTSBA, ACE, SAM, MASBO, MQEC, MSSA, and MHSA. He stated the property and liability coverage will also be coming due.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Marian Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of affiliation dues if they have less than a 10% increase. (YES—Swansbrough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

MEETING DATES -- Mr. Ator asked trustees to look at their calendars for a meeting date in May. It was decided the May meeting would be held on May 22, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Michelle Swansborough called for adjournment at 7:55 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk